

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 AID-05 SSO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02
FDRE-00 EB-08 IO-13 IGA-02 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 INRE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 NSCE-00 DODE-00 /072 W
-----041518Z 052840 /47

O 041421Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3530

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 1492

DEPARTMENT ALSO PASS AID

FOR NEA/ARN - DRAPER FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, LE, US, SREF
SUBJECT: TENTS FOR PEOPLE IN DAMOUR

REF: (A) BEIRUT 1202, (B) BEIRUT 1039, (C) STATE 64496

1. SUMMARY: MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS RIZK HAS RENEWED
URGENT REQUEST FOR TENTS. EVEN THOUGH THEY WILL BE USED BY
PALESTINIANS, I URGE DEPARTMENT TO RESPOND POSITIVELY. END SUMMARY.

2. MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS RIZK CALLED ON ME APRIL 4 AND
AGAIN REQUESTED IN STRONGEST TERMS THAT US PROVIDE TENTS TO
SHELTER REFUGEES NOW IN DAMOUR. RIZK REPEATED THAT GOL
HAD REACHED ACCORD WITH PALESTINIANS, WHEREBY THEY WOULD
MOVE TO CAMP NEAR ZAHRANI AS SOON AS TENTS READY. GOL HAD
AGREED TO PUT IN WATER AND ELECTRICITY IMMEDIATELY, AND
PALESTINIANS HAD AGREED TO PUT UP PERMANENT STRUCTURES
WITHIN SIX MONTHS.

3. RIZK ACKNOWLEDGED THAT LEBANESE NOW IN DAMOUR
WOULD NOT AGREE TO MOVE TO TENT CITY. THEREFORE, GOL
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WOULD GIVE THEM CASH PAYMENT AND ALLOW THEM TO RESETTLE WHERE
THEY WISHED. GOL WOULD ALSO PUT UP TENTS FOR THESE AND
OTHER LEBANESE REFUGEES NEAR THEIR HOME VILLAGES. LEBANESE
WOULD USE THESE TENTS WHILE WAITING FOR PERMANENT HOMES TO
BE REPAIRED. HOWEVER, GOL COULD NOT YET ESTIMATE HOW MANY
TENTS WOULD BE NEEDED FOR THIS PURPOSE.

4. RIZK REMARKED THAT ALTHOUGH ZAHRANI WOULD BE PALESTINIAN CAMP, RESETTLEMENT OF DAMOUR REFUGEES WAS A LEBANESE PROBLEM, AND A VERY BIG ONE. REFUGEES WERE VICTIMS OF WAR IN LEBANON JUST AS MUCH AS OTHER LEBANESE. GOL COMMITTED TO MOVE THEM AND WOULD SUFFER SEVERE POLITICAL SETBACK IF UNABLE TO BRING IT OFF. INTER ALIA, MOVE WOULD LAY GROUNDWORK FOR GENERAL EFFORT TO SHIFT REFUGEES FROM ILLEGALLY OCCUPIED DWELLINGS IN BEIRUT AND ELSEWHERE BACK TO THEIR HOME VILLAGES. RIZK SAID THAT 2,000 SIX-TO-EIGHT MAN TENTS WOULD PROBABLY BE ENOUGH TO HANDLE REFUGEES FROM DAMOUR.

5. RIZK SAID UN OFFER OF TENTS FROM INDIA (AT \$145 PER TENT) WAS CLEARLY INSUFFICIENT. FIRSTLY, NO MORE THAN 500 TENTS COULD BE DELIVERED THIS MONTH. (RIZK SAID HE WAS SENDING IN ORDER FOR THIS AMOUNT IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIS MEETING WITH ME.) SECONDLY, GOL HAD OTHER PLANS FOR MOST OF MONEY REMAINING IN SECRETARY GENERAL'S SPECIAL FUND.

6. RECOMMENDATION. I URGE DEPARTMENT TO AUTHORIZE USE OF PORTION OF FUNDS REMAINING FROM \$50 MILLION PACKAGE TO PURCHASE 500 TENTS FROM ITALY, EVEN THOUGH THEY MAY BE USED BY PALESTINIANS (IF MOVE TO ZAHRANI PROCEEDS AS PLANNED, DEPARTMENT MIGHT WISH TO AUTHORIZE PURCHASE OF ADDITIONAL TENTS AT LATER DATE).

FOLLOWING IS RATIONALE:

-- TENTS, REGARDLESS OF WHO LIVES IN THEM, WILL SERVE HUMANITARIAN PURPOSE AND WILL BE DESTINED FOR VICTIMS OF
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CIVIL WAR. NATIONALITY OR ORIGIN SECONDARY CONSIDERATION.

-- POLITICALLY, IT IS MOST IMPORTANT FOR GOL TO MOVE SQUATTERS OUT OF DAMOUR. IF PALESTINIANS HAVE REALLY AGREED TO COOPERATE AS RIZK SAYS, WE WOULD BE RENDERING IMPORTANT SERVICE BY HELPING SOLVE WHAT HAS BECOME A TEST CASE OF GOL'S ABILITY TO GET LEBANESE BACK TO THEIR HOMES.

-- ALTHOUGH UNRWA HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR REGISTERED REFUGEES, MANY OF PALESTINIANS IN DAMOUR ARE UNREGISTERED. MOREOVER, UNRWA, HAS MADE CLEAR THAT IT WILL NOT FINANCE PURCHASE OF THE TENTS FOR PALESTINIANS IN DAMOUR, REGISTERED OR NOT, UNLESS MORE FUNDS FORTHCOMING (SEE REF A).

7. SINCE GOL WANTS TO ACT QUICKLY, WE WOULD APPRECIATE RESPONSE BY IMMEDIATE TELEGRAM.
PARKER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 04-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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